

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of screening for agents for treating asthma in a human, comprising:
 - 5 (a) contacting a Gob-4 protein with a test agent thought to be effective in inhibiting the activity of said Gob-4 protein;
 - (b) determining if said test agent inhibits the activity of said Gob-4 protein, wherein determining if said test agent inhibits the activity of
10 said mammalian Gob-4 protein comprises quantitating the amount of mucus produced by staining said mucus with a periodic-acid Schiff stain; and
 - (c) classifying said test agent as an agent for treating asthma if said test agent inhibits the activity of said Gob-4 protein.